

At the suggestion of the Chairman, the communication from Dr. Ravenel, read at a late meeting of the Academy, describing a new species of Pecten, was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Phillips, Dr. Morton, and Mr. Conrad were appointed as the Committee.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS, JANUARY 31, 1843.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

After the Reports of several Committees, and that of the Corresponding Secretary had been read, the following Annual Report was presented by the Recording Secretary.

REPORT.

In presenting his Report of the operations of the Society during the past year, the Recording Secretary embraces the opportunity of congratulating the members upon the present condition of the Institution, and the flattering prospect which it has of prosperity for the future.

The state of its finances, as appears from the report of the Treasurer, and, to use his words, "is superior to that of any period since its organization." This satisfactory state of things has been occasioned principally by the receipt, in February last, of the sum of \$6000, being the balance of the second subscription of the late William Maclure. To his brother and executor, Mr. Alexander Maclure, is the Society under great obligations, for the persevering efforts which were made by him to accomplish this object, and also for the interest which he manifested in the general welfare of our Institution. The Academy has been thereby enabled to liquidate several urgent claims, and greatly to reduce the debt incurred in the purchase of the ground on which the present building is erected.

In addition to this, its funds have been considerably augmented during the last few months by the final and successful settlement of a long pending suit for a claim of upwards of \$5000 against the heirs of an unsettled estate. This was a mortgage transferred to the Academy many years since, by the late Wm. Maclure. In consequence of many difficulties and vexatious delays thrown in the way of settlement of this matter, the Academy had hitherto been unable to make this fund in any way available. By a compromise made with the heirs, fourteen per cent. of the

whole amount has been deducted for their use; the balance, amounting to \$4549, is in Pennsylvania five per cent. stock, to which is to be added \$430 interest, paid in par funds, and \$113 in six per cent. Pennsylvania stock, also as interest; the latter being redeemable by the State in August next. In accordance with the desire of Mr. Alexander Maclure, the first mentioned sum will not be appropriated at present by the Academy, but retained until some improvement in the stock occurs, which, it is hoped, will be at no distant date. At all events, the Society has the positive assurance of Mr. Maclure that no loss shall be sustained, and that both principal and interest shall be eventually realised.

For the final adjustment of this affair, the Academy is under great obligations to this gentleman, to the Counsel of the Academy, and to several other members.

The Museum of the Academy has been augmented by large and valuable additions to all its departments during last year. The details of these presentations, with the names of the donors, have been already given in the published Proceedings of the Academy during the year, and need not, therefore, be repeated here. But a brief mention of the names of those who have contributed most largely in each department is considered due to them, and will not be unacceptable to the Society.

To the Geological department valuable donations have been made by Dr. S. G. Morton, Prof. Locke, of Cincinnati, Geo. R. Gliddon, Esq., of Cairo, Egypt, J. Hamilton Couper, Esq., of Georgia, Mr. Joseph Brano, of Philadelphia, and minor donations by Drs. Chaloner, Watson, Carson and Blanding, and by Prof. W. B. Rogers, of Virginia.

In the Ornithological department the presentations have been large and valuable, and made chiefly by

Prof. Holbrook, of South Carolina, Mr. Charles Twigg, of New Harmony, Indiana, Mr. J. W. Rulon, and also by a club of members. Also by Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York, by the President of the Society, Mr. Wm. Hembel, and by Mr. George W. Carpenter, Dr. William Blanding, and Mrs. William Furness, of this city.

To the Cabinet of Shells important additions have been made by

Dr. Paul B. Goddard, Dr. Benjamin B. Brown, of St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. J. Hamilton Couper, Dr. Wm. Walker, of Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. J. C. Jay, of New York. Also by Mrs. Lucy W. Say, Mr. P. H. Nicklin, Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Cassin, &c.

The Botanical department has been indebted for well preserved and interesting donations of plants to

Peter A. Browne, Esq., Mr. Richard C. Taylor, the Rev. J. P. Durbin, Prof. Short, of Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. George Engleman, of St. Louis, Missouri, J. Frampton Watson, Esq.; and also to Drs. Carson, Godon, and others.

A portion of the Herbarium containing the natural family Compositæ has been carefully examined by Dr. Asa Gray, of New York, in whose hands it had been placed, at his own request, for this purpose, and has been considerably improved, and some additions made to it by him.

A very large collection of plants presented in the year 1839, by Dr.

Menké, of Pymont, Germany, has been at length examined and arranged by the Botanical Committee, whose Report states that, as arranged, it contains not less than 7000 species in excellent condition. On account of its size and value they have decided upon keeping it in a separate case from those containing the Academy's Herbarium, and to designate it the "Menké Collection."

Of Minerals, the donations have been chiefly from the following members and others.

P. A. Browne, J. Randolph Clay, George R. Gliddon, Wm. S. Vaux, J. A. Clay, Esqs., Dr. Wm. T. Craige, &c.

In the Entomological department we have had but a single donation to record in the past year—that made by Mr. Charles Twigg, of New Harmony, Indiana, of insects from that region. The Secretary, however, has the satisfaction to state, that it is the determination of several members to exert themselves during the coming season, personally, and through friends in the United States, in making collections of American Insects for the Academy. He would respectfully suggest that the aid of Foreign Correspondents be also solicited for this purpose.

To the Museum there has also been added a number of fine Quadrupeds, Reptiles, Fishes, Skeletons of Animals and Crania, by members and correspondents.

The donations made by the different contributors mentioned, are upwards of eighty in number. It would be difficult to form a just estimate of the number of specimens embraced by them; it cannot, however, fall short of from four to five hundred. Taken collectively, they form a mass of great value to the lover of Natural Science, and for which the Academy has every reason to return its thanks to those persons who have thus testified their desire to promote the interests of the Institution.

The Library has received an equal share of consideration. Many of the works presented last year are of great value, and the additions are equal in number to those of former years. The entire number of volumes, pamphlets, works published in parts, &c., added to the Library in 1842, has been one hundred and thirty-two; and of these, according to the report of the Librarian, sixty-nine are new works. For some of these the Academy exchanges its own publications with other Institutions and individuals. A large proportion of them, however, have been voluntary contributions from authors, members, and correspondents.

A new set of cases, occupying the whole extent of the South Flying Gallery, has been recently completed, which adds much to the appearance of the Hall. One-half of these cases has been appropriated to the valuable collection of crania belonging to Dr. Morton, and the remainder to the accommodation of a very extensive series of volumes containing the debates and proceedings of the different legislative bodies of France during the period of the Revolution. Its great size, in fact, (upwards of 1600 volumes,) has hitherto prevented its introduction into the Hall, lest it should encroach too much on the space in the Library allotted to works of a strictly scientific character. As a full record of the events of that epoch of history it is highly valuable, and is believed to be possessed by no other Institution

in this country. There are, besides, duplicates of many of these volumes, which the Academy could, without doubt, exchange for scientific works, or dispose of in some other way.

The meetings of the Society have been held with great regularity during the year, at the stated periods, without a single exception, and have been characterised by ample evidences of zeal and interest in the cause of science. Many valuable original papers have been presented, most of which have been published either in the Journal of the Academy, or in its Proceedings, and have contributed still further to advance the high character of our Institution.

The Second Part of the 8th Volume of the Journal was issued about the middle of the year, and besides the papers referred to, contains many well executed and faithful illustrations of the objects which they describe. The Proceedings have been published at intervals of from one to three months. This plan of publication was commenced early in the year 1841, and has been adhered to ever since with advantage to the members and correspondents—affording them a medium for acquainting the scientific public with their discoveries and observations without delay.

Several prominent members have had in view for some time past the reduction of the annual contribution to one-half its present amount, and have only been prevented from bringing the subject before the Society, for its action, from a conviction that its best interests would be consulted by deferring it until something more definite and certain was known respecting the amount of reduction which would be effected in the remaining debt of the Academy during the present year. An effort will then be made at the earliest practicable period to accomplish this object, which, it is believed, is desired by a large majority of the members.

From the statement thus given of the operations of this Society during the past year, it is hoped that the assertion made at the beginning of this report, that its present condition is flattering, will not be considered as having been premature or unfounded.

With no other debt remaining, except the one just referred to—and that in the way of reduction at an early period, and to such an extent as, after its accomplishment, to admit of the Society's appropriating annually a considerable portion of its income to the scientific purposes of the Institution—with a list of nearly one hundred and fifty contributing and resident members, and of three hundred and seventy domestic and foreign correspondents, mostly zealous in aiding the Institution, and in promoting the objects for which it was founded, it is not hazarding too much in expressing the belief that by a steady continuance of these efforts, and a prudent management of its financial concerns, its prosperity must henceforth be permanent.

Twenty-five years only have elapsed since this Institution was incorporated. It is therefore still in its youth. In that time it has advanced from comparative unimportance, to a consequence and standing which the most sanguine of its founders could scarcely have anticipated. To the industry, talent, zeal and liberality of many of its members, is this to be

attributed, but chiefly to the aid derived from its early friend and patron the late Wm. Maclure.

For conducting it through many difficulties during the early part of this period; for furnishing the principal portion of the means for erecting the edifice in which we are now met; and for the abundant evidences of his generosity in every direction around us in this Hall, do we owe him our grateful acknowledgements. A distinguished member of this Society, who is himself one of its warmest and most active friends, and who has contributed in no small degree to its advancement, has already done ample justice to the memory of Mr. Maclure for these acts.* But there still remains with us the obligation, which is of no light character, to use every suitable endeavor to place this Institution in that elevated position which, in making it the special object of such munificence, it was the design of Mr. Maclure it should hold.

All which is respectfully submitted, by

WM. S. ZANTZINGER,
Recording Secretary.

Hall of the Academy, January, 1843.

An alteration of Article VII, Chapter 3, of the By-Laws, proposed at a former meeting, was then unanimously adopted. The By-Law, as amended, now requires of "Correspondents residing in the United States," elected after this date, "a Diploma fee of five dollars."

The Report of the Auditors on the Treasurer's account for 1842, was then read and accepted; and the Society, after having transacted some other business, proceeded to an election for Standing Committees for the year 1843.

The following result was announced by the Tellers:

COMMITTEES FOR 1843.

GEOLOGICAL AND MINERALOGICAL.

J. Price Wetherill,	William S. Vaux,
Henry D. Rogers,	Walter R. Johnson,
Joseph A. Clay,	T. A. Conrad,
Willard M. Rice.	

* "Memoir of William Maclure, Esq.," and "Notice of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," by Samuel George Morton, M. D.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Academy.

Elisha K. Kane, M. D., of Philadelphia.
Samuel B. Ashmead, of Philadelphia.

The following Correspondents were also elected.

M. Arago, of Paris.
The Baron Alexandre Von Humboldt.
John Gould, F. L. S., of London.
Prof. John Phillips, of York, England.
B. F. French, Esq., of New Orleans.